

ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides a means for an end user to
customize a speech-based user interface, such as those
used in status and control for such applications as
messaging, unified communications, automobile control,
and many others. The invention consists of two major
10 components: a graphical configuration component, and a
run-time component. The graphical configuration
component allows a user to quickly and efficiently:
specify the information they wish to be included in
spoken summaries; restructure command menus or vocabulary
15 structures to meet their personal requirements, moving
commonly-used commands to the "top" of a hierarchy or
vocabulary structure, and rarely-used commands to the
bottom layers; create additional commands to access
information relating to functions external to the system,
20 e.g. access data from the web, or control another device
or system, via the web; and save the customization for
use by the run-time program. The run time program is
embedded into the speech user interface module of the
system, and effectively executes the customized speech
25 based user interface. Some existing speech user
interface modules may already be "data driven", thus
providing an excellent foundation for implementing the
invention.

006727 2666460